

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01035 181116Z

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FOR NSF/HULL FROM SCIATT SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, RO

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL REVIEW OF NSF PROPOSAL JOINT
SEMINAR ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. YOUR FEBRUARY 19TH REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REVIEW OF NSF SUBJECT SEMINAR REACHED PROFESSOR MARVIN JACKSON MARCH 9TH IN BUCHAREST WHERE IT WAS FORWARDED BY ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY.
2. FULL TEXT OF JACKSON'S REVIEW FOLLOWS IN VIEW OF NSF REQUEST FOR EARLY REPLY FROM JACKSON. SIGNED TEXT FOLLOWS IN POUCH.
3. QUOTE. REVIEWER'S QUALIFICATIONS - WORK IN ROMANIA, IN 1970-71 UNDER FULBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT, IN SEPT. 1972, TO JAN 1974, UNDER IREX RESEARCH GRANT, AND FROM FEBRUARY 1974 TO PRESENT AS FIRST FULBRIGHT LECTURER IN ECONOMICS AT THE ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES, BUCHAREST, LECTURING IN FOREIGN TRADE AND PROBLEMS OF ROMANIAN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. SPEAKS ROMANIAN AND HAS WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS WITH ROMANIAN ORGANIZATIONS.
4. QUOTE. IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT - WITHOUT QUESTION. GREAT NEED FOR MORE UNDERSTANDING OF INSTITU-

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01035 181116Z

TIONS AND BEHAVIORAL RELATIONSHIPS. NEED FOR RESEARCH

TO DISCOVER AND TEST NEW FORMS OF ORGANIZATION.

5. QUOTE. ROMANIAN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT - ORGANIZATION OF FOREIGN TRADE AND OTHER FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS RECEIVES MUCH DISCUSSION HERE, ESPECIALLY AT THE WORKING LEVEL.

6. QUOTE: MAJOR PROBLEM - ROMANIANS, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, DO NOT LIKE TO DISCUSS TO AFFAIRS OF OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITH WESTERNERS, DO NOT LIKE TO CRITICIZE THEIR OWN BASIC POLICIES AND FUNDAMENTAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS, AND HESITATE TO GIVE ANY STATISTICAL INFORMATION THAT IS NOT ALREADY PUBLISHED OR TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF HOW SPECIFIC DECISIONS ARE MADE IN FOREIGN TRADE OR INVESTMENT. WITHOUT HIGH LEVEL APPROVAL, ROMANIANS MAY CONTRIBUTE LITTLE TO THE SEMINAR. IN THIS RESPECT, COSTIN MURGESCU IS A GOOD CHOICE OF LEADER ON THE ROMANIAN SIDE SINCE HE IS NOW A COUNSELLOR IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENT. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECORDS IDENTIFY COSTIN MURGESCU AS GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE ROMANIAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION, AND AS COUNSELLOR WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO AMBASSADOR. END COMMENT.

7. QUOTE: SECOND PROBLEM - IN ANY CASE, CONTACT AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE FIRST CONFERENCE AND THE SECOND WILL BE DIFFICULT. ROMANIANS PROMISE MUCH THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE AND LETTERS, BUT DO LITTLE WITHOUT PERSONAL AND DIRECT CONTACT. I WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED IF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL HAD INCLUDED AN OFFICIAL LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE OR THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

8. QUOTE: CONCLUSION - NO DOUBT THE ROMANIANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST SEMINAR. THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE QUALITY OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE LOW. PUBLICATION OF THE SEMINAR PAPERS HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 01035 181116Z

IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT ASSURED BY VERBAL STATEMENT. ROMANIANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND SEMINAR AS LONG AS THEIR EXPENSES ARE PAID.

9. QUOTE: IN SPITE OF MY SEVERAL STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE RESULTS, I URGE YOU TO TAKE A CHANCE ON THIS PROJECT. AT THIS STAGE, ROMANIANS NEED TO BE PUSHED AND ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE IN A MORE OPEN AND SCIENTIFIC

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THIS SEMINAR IS A
WAY TO BEGIN AND IT MAY HAVE SURPRISING SUCCESS.

10. QUOTE: IN THE FUTURE, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU REQUIRE
SUPPORTING LETTERS FROM THE ROMANIAN PARTICIPANTS, AND
IF THESE CANNOT BE OBTAINED, TO AT LEAST REQUIRE A
VERBAL COMMITMENT BY THE PARTICIPANTS OR PORPOSED SPONSOR-
ING ORGANIZATION TO THE SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE AT THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY. SUCH A PROCEDURE WAS DIFFICULT IN
THE PAST, BUT IS NOW POSSIBLE. UNQUOTE.
BARNES

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